

AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes of Black Americans

Provisional Data From the 1988 National Health Interview Survey

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Introduction

This report is one of two special reports examining knowledge and attitudes about acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) among minority subgroups of the U.S. population. Based on data collected in the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), the report describes various aspects of AIDS-related knowledge, attitudes, and behavior for black adults 18 years of age and over. It presents differentials by age, sex, and education for the black population and compares selected measures for black and white individuals. The second of these special reports (*Advance Data From Vital and Health Statistics*, No. 166) presents data for Hispanic adults and compares them with data for their non-Hispanic counterparts.

Both reports are based on provisional data for the 6-month period May-October 1988. These 6 months of data have been combined to provide a sufficient number of respondents to examine differences in knowledge among various subgroups of the black and white populations. Although some increases in knowledge occurred over this period, the changes were of similar magnitude for black and white adults and should not affect any comparisons made in this report.

Since 1987, the National Center for Health Statistics has included a special set of supplemental questions on the adult population's knowledge and attitudes about AIDS and HIV in the NHIS. The first AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes Survey was in the field from August through December 1987. Provisional results of that survey were published on a monthly basis in *Advance Data From Vital and Health Statistics* (Nos. 146, 148, 150, 151, and 153). During the first 4 months of 1988, the NHIS AIDS questionnaire was revised to meet current program needs for information about AIDS awareness.

The revised AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes Survey entered the field in May 1988. Provisional findings for the total population for the period May-October 1988 have been published in *Advance Data From Vital and Health Statistics*, Nos. 160, 161, 163, and 164. All reports to date have included separate estimates for the total white population and total black population, but they have not examined differences by age, sex, and education within these populations.

The AIDS questionnaires were designed to estimate public knowledge and attitudes about AIDS transmission and prevention of AIDS virus infection. The data were needed as input for the planning and development of AIDS educational campaigns and for monitoring major educational efforts, such as the series of radio and television public service announcements entitled "America Responds to AIDS" and the brochure "Understanding AIDS," both developed by the Centers for Disease Control.

The 1987 and 1988 AIDS questionnaires were developed by the National Center for Health Statistics and interagency working groups established by the Information, Education and Risk Factor Reduction Subcommittee of the Public Health Service Executive Task Force on AIDS. The working groups included representatives from the Centers for Disease Control; the National Institutes of Health; the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration; and the Health Resources and Services Administration.

The current AIDS questionnaire includes items on sources of AIDS information; self-assessed level of AIDS knowledge; basic facts about the AIDS virus and how it is transmitted; blood donation experience; awareness of and experience with the blood test for the AIDS virus; perceived effectiveness of selected preventive measures; self-assessed chances of getting the AIDS virus; personal acquaintance with persons with AIDS or the AIDS virus; and willingness to take part in a proposed national seropre-

valence survey. A general risk behavior question, similar to that asked by the Red Cross of potential blood donors, is included in the 1988 AIDS questionnaire.

This report presents provisional data for May-October 1988 for most items included in the AIDS questionnaire. Tables 1 and 2, for black and white adults respectively, display percent distributions of persons 18 years of age and over by response categories according to age, sex, and education. In most cases, the actual questions asked of the respondents are reproduced verbatim in tables 1 and 2, along with the coded response categories. In a few cases, questions or response categories have been rephrased or combined for clearer or more concise presentation of results. Refusals and other nonresponse categories are excluded from the denominator in the calculation of estimates, but responses of "don't know" are included.

Questions in the NHIS AIDS survey used the term "the AIDS virus" rather than HIV, because it was felt that the general population might not be familiar with the more scientific terminology when the survey began. In this report, "the AIDS virus" will be used in place of HIV when it reflects the way an individual question was worded.

For this report, characterization of race is based on respondents' descriptions of their racial backgrounds. For each member of a household, the household respondent for the main NHIS interview was asked "What is the number of the group that represents _____'s race?" The choices on the response card were Aleut, Eskimo, or American Indian; Asian or Pacific Islander; black; white; and another group not listed. In order to simplify interpretation of racial differentials, only persons classified as black or white were included in this analysis.

Selected findings

Patterns of knowledge and attitudes about AIDS and HIV are essentially the same within the black population as for the U.S. population as a whole, with the greatest levels of knowledge in both groups occurring among the young and the well educated. Within categories of age, sex, and education, knowledge and attitudes about HIV/AIDS generally are similar for black and white adults. There are exceptions, though, especially in the area of perceived risk of HIV transmission through casual contact with infected individuals. The following highlights describe various aspects of AIDS knowledge and attitudes as observed in the NHIS data for the period May-October 1988, focusing on differentials within the black population and differences between black and white individuals. All differences cited in the text are statistically significant unless otherwise noted (see tables II and III for approximate standard errors of estimates).

Sources of information about AIDS and HIV—During the period May-October 1988, 86 percent of black adults reported having seen public service announcements about AIDS on television in the month preceding the NHIS interview, and 51 percent heard such announcements on the radio in the preceding month. Sixty-three percent of black adults reported ever having read brochures or pam-

phlets about AIDS, 43 percent in the month preceding the NHIS interview. Black adults 18-49 years of age more frequently reported all of these forms of exposure to AIDS information than did individuals 50 years of age and over. As has been shown for the general population, there was a strong differential by education in the proportion of black adults who reported each of the above sources of information (figure 1). For example, the proportion of individuals who had ever read brochures or pamphlets about AIDS increased from 44 percent of black adults with less than 12 years of school to 79 percent of those with more than 12 years of school.

Black and white adults were equally likely to have seen AIDS public service announcements on television, but black adults more frequently reported having heard announcements on the radio (51 compared to 46 percent). This difference was most pronounced for persons with 12 or more years of school. Black individuals were slightly more likely than their white counterparts to have read brochures or pamphlets about AIDS in the month preceding interview—especially among persons with 12 or more years of school.

Black adults were less likely than white adults to report having received unsolicited AIDS brochures/pamphlets in the mail (33 versus 38 percent) and from the Federal Government (18 versus 29 percent) and were more likely than white adults to have obtained these materials at work (16 versus 11 percent) or at clinics (5 versus 2 percent). There was no difference by race in the proportion of persons who reported getting AIDS pamphlets or brochures from private doctors.

Sixty-two percent of all black adults with children between the ages of 10 and 17 years stated that their children had received AIDS education in school. This proportion is higher than the comparable proportion of white adults, 57 percent.

General knowledge about AIDS and HIV—In terms of self-assessed knowledge about HIV and AIDS, 18 percent of black adults felt they knew a lot, 38 percent some, 30 percent a little, and 13 percent nothing. The proportion of black adults claiming to know a lot about AIDS increased with education, from 8 percent of those with less than 12 years of school to 29 percent of those with more than 12 years. Black persons 50 years of age and over were less likely than younger adults to feel that they knew a lot about AIDS, 10 compared to 21 percent.

In comparison to black adults, white adults were more likely to feel that they knew a lot or some about HIV/AIDS (23 and 44 percent, respectively) and less likely to feel that they knew little or nothing (25 and 7 percent). Among persons under age 30, though, there was no difference in self-assessed knowledge between black and white adults.

Objective measures of general knowledge about HIV and AIDS varied by age as well for both black and white adults, with individuals 50 years of age and over consistently less likely than younger adults to identify correctly selected statements about AIDS as definitely true or false. As illustrated in figure 2, persons with less than 12 years of school were less knowledgeable about the general facts of

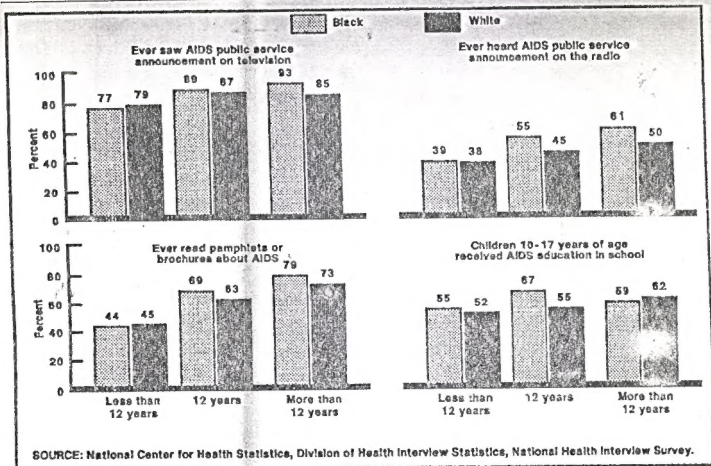


Figure 1. Provisional estimates of percent of black and white adults exposed to selected sources of AIDS information, by education: United States, May-October 1988

HIV and AIDS than were those with 12 or more years of school, regardless of race. For the less well-known facts, there was also a difference in knowledge between persons with 12 years and with more than 12 years of school. For example, the proportion of black adults who thought a person could be infected with HIV and not have AIDS varied from 32 percent of individuals with less than 12 years of school to 47 and 60 percent, respectively, of those with 12 years and those with more than 12 years of school.

Within categories of education, there were few differences between black and white adults in general knowledge about HIV/AIDS. Both populations were equally aware of the risks of HIV transmission through sexual intercourse, perinatal contact, and shared needles for illegal drug use. In a few areas, however, black adults were less knowledgeable than white adults, for example, less likely to know that AIDS reduces the body's natural protection against disease (60 versus 76 percent for all levels of education combined) and that a person can be infected with HIV without having the disease AIDS (46 compared to 56 percent).

Misconceptions about HIV transmission—Since the first data on AIDS knowledge and attitudes were collected, in the 1987 NHIS, some of the most striking differences in knowledge between black and white adults have been in the area of HIV transmission. Although as likely as white adults to identify correctly activities with high risks of HIV

transmission, black adults were less likely to identify correctly the low or nonexistent risks associated with casual contact with infected individuals.

Figure 3 shows the proportions of black and white adults who thought it very unlikely or definitely not possible to become infected with HIV in various ways. These proportions increased with education for both black and white adults, but within all categories of education were generally 5–10 percentage points lower than for white adults. With respect to "working near someone with the AIDS virus," for example, the percentage of black adults who thought it very unlikely or definitely not possible to become infected with HIV in this manner increased from 46 percent of persons with less than 12 years of school to 68 percent of those with 12 or more years; for white adults, the comparable proportions varied from 56 to 78 percent.

In general, the forms of contact perceived as least threatening by both black and white adults were those that involve mere proximity to or casually touching a person infected with HIV. Those contacts seen as most threatening by members of both races involve potential exchange of saliva or blood.

Blood donation and testing—One-third (34 percent) of all black adults in the United States reported ever having donated blood, including 8 percent who had done so since March 1985 (when routine screening for HIV antibodies

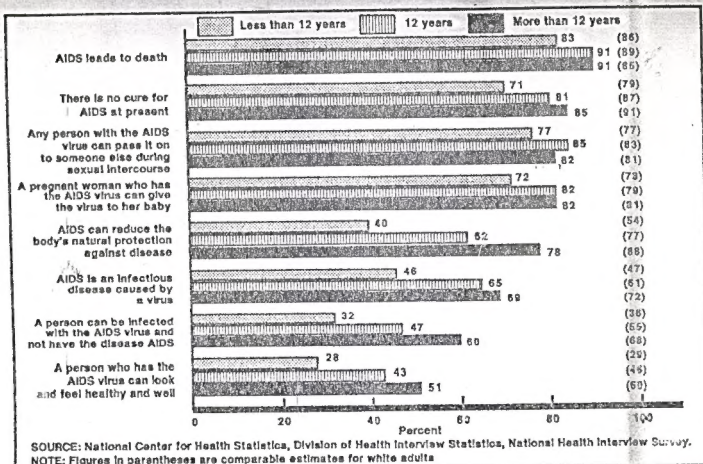


Figure 2. Provisional estimates of percent of black adults who thought selected statements about AIDS definitely true, by education: United States, May-October 1988

began) and 3 percent who had done so in the year preceding interview. In comparison, 42 percent of white adults had ever donated blood, including 14 percent since March 1985 and 7 percent in the preceding year.

Just over half (55 percent) of black adults believed that blood donations are now routinely tested, as compared to 69 percent of white adults. Most of this difference can be explained by the lower proportion of black adults who had ever heard of the blood test to detect HIV antibodies—66 percent compared to 78 percent for white adults.

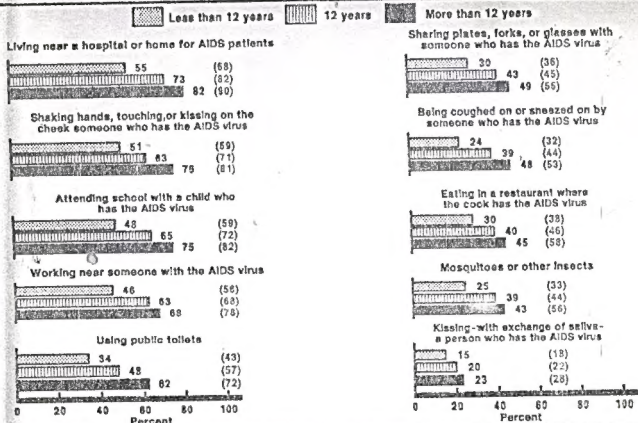
The proportion of black adults who had ever heard of the blood test for HIV infection varied from 48 percent of those with less than 12 years of school to 70 and 83 percent, respectively, of those with 12 and more than 12 years. Persons 50 years of age and over were much less likely than those age 18–49 years to have heard of the test (50 versus 73 percent).

In all, 14 percent of black adults had taken the blood test for HIV antibodies. This figure includes 7 percent who reported having had the test and another 7 percent who claimed they had not had their blood tested but who had donated blood since March 1985, when routine screening for HIV antibodies began. The proportion of black persons who ever had their blood tested for HIV infection decreased with age (from 19 percent of those age 18–29

years to 7 percent of those 50 years and over), increased with education (from 7 to 22 percent, respectively, of those with less than 12 and more than 12 years of school), and was higher for men (17 percent) than for women (12 percent).

White adults were slightly more likely than their black counterparts to have had their blood tested for HIV (17 compared to 14 percent), with all of the excess falling into the category of individuals who did not report having had their blood tested but who had donated blood since automatic screening began. Among persons who had been tested for HIV, the proportion who had done so voluntarily (as opposed to in connection with blood donation/transfusion or some other activity entailing routine screening of blood for HIV antibodies) was almost twice as high for black as for white adults (27 versus 14 percent).

Ten percent of black adults reported plans to have their blood tested for HIV antibodies in the next 12 months, a figure that declined with age from 15 percent of persons aged 18–29 years to 4 percent of those 50 years of age and over. Of the black individuals who reported plans to be tested, 72 percent stated that the test would be performed on a voluntary basis; 19 percent said the test would be carried out in connection with blood donation/transfusion, and 21 percent said it would be performed as part of some



SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, Division of Health Interview Statistics, National Health Interview Survey
NOTE: Figures in parentheses are comparable estimates for white adults

Figure 3. Provisional estimates of percent of black adults who thought it very unlikely or definitely not possible to become infected with HIV in selected ways, by education: United States, May-October 1988

other activity requiring a blood sample (e.g., military induction).

Plans for future HIV testing differed sharply for black and white adults. Black individuals were almost twice as likely to report plans for testing (10 versus 6 percent), and of those with plans to be tested a greater proportion planned to do so on a voluntary basis (72 versus 49 percent). In contrast, white adults more frequently stated that the test would be performed as part of blood donation/transfusion, 46 percent compared to 19 percent for black persons.

Seven percent of all black adults and 6 percent of white adults received blood transfusions between 1977, when HIV is thought to have entered the United States, and 1985, when routine screening of blood donations for HIV began. As of May-October 1988, one-third (34 percent) of black adults believed that the blood supply was safe for transfusions. This proportion increased with education, but at all levels of education it was about 10 percentage points lower than the figure for white adults.

Prevention of HIV transmission—Twenty-nine percent of black Americans evaluated use of condoms as very effective in preventing HIV transmission, and 47 percent considered this method somewhat effective. Only 8 percent thought condoms not at all effective; 17 percent either did not know of the method or did not know how effective it is.

Perceived effectiveness of condoms increased with education. The proportion of black adults who considered this method to be very or somewhat effective in preventing HIV transmission increased from 58 percent of those with less than 12 years of school to 89 percent of those with more than 12 years; for white adults, the comparable proportions varied from 69 to 93 percent.

The proportion of black adults who considered maintaining a monogamous relationship with a seronegative individual to be a very effective means of protection against HIV infection was 71 percent, considerably lower than the estimate of 84 percent for white adults. This proportion increased with education, from 59 percent of black persons with less than 12 years of school (compared to 73 percent of white individuals with this level of education) to 81 percent of those with 12 or more years (90 percent for white adults).

Perceived risk of HIV infection—Seventy-one percent of black adults felt there was no chance of their becoming infected with HIV, and 19 percent assessed their chance of infection as low. Three percent felt their risk was medium, and less than 1 percent reported a high risk. Another 1 percent thought their was a high chance that they were already infected with HIV. Six percent did not know their risk of HIV infection. In the white population, a slightly higher proportion (74 percent) of adults felt that they were

at no risk of becoming infected with HIV, whereas slightly fewer (3 percent) did not know their degree of risk.

Perceived risk of infection increased with education but decreased with age for both black and white adults. Women were slightly more likely than men to assign themselves into the "no risk" category, 74 compared to 66 percent in the black population and 78 compared to 71 percent in the white population.

Four percent of black adults reported themselves as belonging to one or more groups associated with excess risk of HIV infection: homosexual men, intravenous drug users, hemophiliacs, etc. For white adults, the proportion was 2 percent. Black men were more likely than black women to report belonging to these groups, 6 compared to 2 percent. Among white adults, the proportion reporting themselves as belonging to one or more of these groups did not differ by sex: 3 percent for men and 2 percent for women.

Fourteen percent of black adults reported knowing someone with AIDS or HIV, compared to 10 percent of

white adults. This proportion increased with education for members of both races, reaching 21 percent of black adults with 12 or more years of school.

Reaction to government AIDS efforts—Seventy percent of black Americans stated that they would be willing to participate in a national seroprevalence survey, about the same proportion as for white individuals. Likewise, the percent of persons who stated that they believed information about AIDS supplied by the Federal Government was similar for black and white adults (64 and 65 percent), and the proportion that believed government advice about how to keep from getting AIDS was only slightly lower for black than white individuals (76 versus 79 percent). Among persons with 12 or more years of school, though, the differences were larger. In this most highly educated category, black adults were less likely than white adults to trust government information (64 versus 71 percent) and advice (79 versus 85 percent) and to indicate willingness to participate in the national seroprevalence survey (66 versus 74 percent).

Table 1. Provisional estimates of the percent of black adults 18 years of age and over with selected AIDS knowledge and attitudes from the 1988 National Health Interview Survey, by age, sex, and education: United States, May-October 1988

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in technical notes.]

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Age				Sex		Education		
	Total	18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
	Percent distribution ¹								
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1. In the past month, have you—									
1a. Seen any public service announcements about AIDS on television?									
Yes	86	88	90	80	85	87	77	89	93
No	12	11	9	16	13	11	20	9	6
Don't know	2	1	1	4	2	2	3	1	1
1b. Heard any public service announcements about AIDS on the radio?									
Yes	51	58	55	39	55	49	39	55	61
No	45	39	41	56	42	47	56	42	35
Don't know	4	3	4	5	3	4	5	3	4
2. Were any of those public service announcements called "America Responds to AIDS"?									
Yes	31	38	33	20	31	31	26	36	31
No	12	14	13	10	13	12	11	12	14
Don't know	45	39	45	52	43	47	44	43	49
Neither heard nor saw any public service announcements	12	8	9	18	12	11	19	9	8
3. In the past month, have you read any brochures or pamphlets about AIDS?									
Yes	43	45	50	32	38	47	30	46	55
No	56	54	49	66	61	52	66	54	44
Don't know	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
4. Have you ever read any brochures or pamphlets about AIDS?									
Yes	63	68	70	49	59	67	44	69	79
No	36	31	30	49	40	32	54	31	21
Don't know	1	0	0	2	1	1	2	0	1
5. Where did you get the pamphlets or brochures? ^{2,3}									
Clinic, other than work clinic	5	8	5	2	4	7	8	6	4
Doctor's office (HMO)	12	13	13	11	9	15	9	13	14
Drug store	3	3	3	3	3	3	5	3	3
Public health department	4	5	4	3	4	4	3	4	5
Received in mail without asking	33	29	34	40	32	34	38	33	31
Red Cross/Red Cross blood donation	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
Other blood donation	0	0	0	—	0	0	—	0	—
School	8	15	5	3	9	7	10	6	10
Sent/phoned for/requested	1	0	1	0	—	1	0	1	1
Federal/State/local government	18	15	16	24	19	18	21	17	16
Work, other than clinic or nurse	18	15	20	12	18	15	7	15	23
Work, nurse or clinic	4	3	6	3	2	6	2	4	6
Other	16	15	18	16	19	15	11	20	16
Don't know	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0
15. Have you ever discussed AIDS with any of your children aged 10-17?									
Yes	60	44	64	42	41	73	47	63	69
No	40	56	36	58	59	27	53	37	31
Don't know	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16. Have any or all of your children aged 10-17 had instruction at school about AIDS?									
Yes	62	47	62	69	56	65	55	67	59
No	11	21	11	2	10	11	6	12	14
Don't know	28	32	27	30	33	24	39	21	26
21. How much would you say you know about AIDS?									
A lot	18	20	22	10	17	19	8	18	29
Some	38	50	42	21	36	40	25	42	49
A little	30	26	30	35	31	30	37	32	20
None	13	4	6	33	15	12	30	7	2
Don't know	0	—	—	0	0	—	0	0	—
22. To the best of your knowledge, is there a difference between having the AIDS virus and having the disease AIDS?									
Yes	55	59	62	40	55	55	35	55	77
No	19	25	19	12	16	20	19	23	13
Other	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Don't know	26	15	18	47	26	25	45	21	9
23a. AIDS can reduce the body's natural protection against disease.									
Definitely true	60	66	67	43	63	57	40	62	78
Probably true	13	13	11	17	13	14	16	14	10
Probably false	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	5	2
Definitely false	6	7	5	7	6	7	7	7	5
Don't know	17	10	13	31	16	18	34	12	6

Table 1. Provisional estimates of the percent of black adults 18 years of age and over with selected AIDS knowledge and attitudes from the 1988 National Health Interview Survey, by age, sex, and education: United States, May–October 1988—Con.

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in technical notes]

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Age				Sex		Education		
	Total	18–29 years	30–49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
	Percent distribution ¹								
23b. AIDS is especially common in older people.									
Definitely true	2	2	2	2	3	1	3	1	1
Probably true	3	4	2	3	3	2	5	3	0
Probably false	16	19	14	16	17	15	17	15	15
Definitely false	67	68	75	56	64	70	52	73	78
Don't know	12	7	8	24	12	12	23	8	5
23c. AIDS can damage the brain.									
Definitely true	30	27	32	30	31	28	28	29	33
Probably true	31	30	31	32	31	31	30	30	33
Probably false	7	10	6	4	5	7	5	7	7
Definitely false	6	8	6	2	5	6	3	3	19
Don't know	27	25	25	33	27	27	34	28	19
23d. AIDS usually leads to heart disease.									
Definitely true	12	10	12	14	11	13	16	9	12
Probably true	24	24	25	24	25	24	22	26	24
Probably false	12	14	14	8	12	13	9	11	18
Definitely false	11	15	13	6	14	10	7	14	13
Don't know	40	36	37	48	38	41	47	39	33
23e. AIDS is an infectious disease caused by a virus.									
Definitely true	60	66	66	46	61	59	46	65	69
Probably true	18	20	15	21	18	19	19	19	17
Probably false	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	1
Definitely false	3	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	4
Don't know	16	9	13	28	15	17	29	12	8
23f. Teenagers cannot get AIDS.									
Definitely true	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1
Probably true	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	0
Probably false	5	5	3	8	9	4	8	4	3
Definitely false	87	93	92	75	87	88	75	92	96
Don't know	5	1	3	13	5	6	13	2	1
23g. AIDS leads to death.									
Definitely true	88	90	92	81	88	89	83	91	91
Probably true	6	6	5	8	6	7	7	6	7
Probably false	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Definitely false	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Don't know	4	1	2	9	4	4	8	2	1
23h. A person can be infected with the AIDS virus and not have the disease AIDS.									
Definitely true	46	50	53	32	47	45	32	47	50
Probably true	22	26	19	21	19	23	19	23	23
Probably false	4	4	5	3	5	4	4	6	2
Definitely false	8	11	7	5	9	7	8	9	6
Don't know	21	9	17	38	20	21	37	15	9
23i. Looking at a person is enough to tell if he or she has the AIDS virus.									
Definitely true	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	2
Probably true	5	7	3	6	6	5	6	6	3
Probably false	17	16	16	13	18	16	19	18	13
Definitely false	62	70	69	46	61	63	47	65	77
Don't know	13	4	10	27	11	14	24	9	5
23j. Any person with the AIDS virus can pass it on to someone else during sexual intercourse.									
Definitely true	81	83	86	73	81	82	77	85	82
Probably true	12	13	9	13	12	11	10	12	13
Probably false	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	2
Definitely false	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Don't know	5	2	3	12	5	5	11	3	2
23k. A person who has the AIDS virus can look and feel healthy and well.									
Definitely true	40	45	48	25	43	38	28	43	51
Probably true	29	33	27	27	28	31	25	39	33
Probably false	7	8	8	9	8	7	8	7	8
Definitely false	8	7	7	9	8	8	9	10	4
Don't know	16	7	12	30	15	18	29	11	7
23l. A pregnant woman who has the AIDS virus can give the AIDS virus to her baby.									
Definitely true	79	83	84	67	76	81	72	82	82
Probably true	14	12	12	18	14	13	15	13	13
Probably false	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Definitely false	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Don't know	7	3	4	14	8	6	12	4	4

Table 1. Provisional estimates of the percent of black adults 18 years of age and over with selected AIDS knowledge and attitudes from the 1988 National Health Interview Survey, by age, sex, and education: United States, May–October 1988—Con.

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in technical notes]

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Age				Sex		Education		
	Total	18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
23m. There is a vaccine available to the public that protects a person from getting the AIDS virus.					Percent distribution ¹				
Definitely true	2	1	3	3	3	2	4	2	1
Probably true	4	4	5	4	4	5	4	5	3
Probably false	11	13	9	11	11	11	11	11	10
Definitely false	62	66	69	46	63	62	46	66	76
Don't know	20	12	15	36	18	22	34	16	10
23n. There is no cure for AIDS at present.									
Definitely true	79	82	84	70	80	79	71	81	85
Probably true	7	6	6	11	6	8	10	6	7
Probably false	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	1
Definitely false	4	6	3	2	5	3	3	5	3
Don't know	8	5	6	14	8	8	14	6	4
24. How likely do you think it is that a person will get AIDS or the AIDS virus infection from—									
24a. Living near a hospital or home for AIDS patients?									
Very likely	4	4	4	3	4	4	5	4	2
Somewhat likely	5	6	3	6	5	5	6	6	3
Somewhat unlikely	10	10	8	12	10	9	10	10	9
Very unlikely	37	39	38	33	39	35	33	37	41
Definitely not possible	33	34	39	23	50	35	22	36	41
Don't know	12	6	7	24	12	12	24	7	4
24b. Working near someone with the AIDS virus?									
Very likely	4	4	5	4	5	4	7	4	2
Somewhat likely	11	12	10	13	12	11	12	12	10
Somewhat unlikely	15	16	13	15	15	14	14	14	15
Very unlikely	34	35	38	28	34	34	28	35	40
Definitely not possible	25	28	28	17	24	25	18	27	26
Don't know	11	5	7	22	10	11	21	7	5
24c. Eating in a restaurant where the cook has the AIDS virus?									
Very likely	10	11	9	11	11	10	12	11	7
Somewhat likely	22	24	18	24	25	19	23	22	21
Somewhat unlikely	13	13	15	10	12	15	10	13	18
Very unlikely	24	25	26	19	22	25	19	24	20
Definitely not possible	14	17	17	9	13	15	11	16	16
Don't know	16	9	14	28	17	16	26	13	10
24d. Kissing—with exchange of saliva—a person who has the AIDS virus?									
Very likely	27	25	27	30	28	27	29	31	21
Somewhat likely	27	29	26	28	26	28	24	26	33
Somewhat unlikely	11	13	12	9	12	11	8	12	14
Very unlikely	13	15	15	7	15	11	10	12	17
Definitely not possible	7	7	8	4	5	8	6	8	7
Don't know	14	10	12	22	14	15	23	11	8
24e. Shaking hands, touching, or kissing on the cheek someone who has the AIDS virus?									
Very likely	4	3	4	6	4	4	7	4	2
Somewhat likely	9	9	7	12	10	8	10	10	6
Somewhat unlikely	14	17	12	14	15	13	13	16	13
Very unlikely	35	37	37	31	36	34	31	33	43
Definitely not possible	27	31	32	18	24	30	20	30	33
Don't know	11	4	8	21	10	11	20	8	4
24f. Sharing plates, forks, or glasses with someone who has the AIDS virus?									
Very likely	13	11	13	15	13	13	17	12	10
Somewhat likely	20	19	18	25	20	20	22	21	17
Somewhat unlikely	13	15	13	11	14	12	10	14	15
Very unlikely	24	28	25	17	25	23	18	23	31
Definitely not possible	16	18	20	9	15	17	11	19	18
Don't know	14	8	12	23	13	14	21	11	9
24g. Using public toilets?									
Very likely	9	9	7	10	9	8	12	9	6
Somewhat likely	16	15	13	20	16	18	20	17	10
Somewhat unlikely	13	17	12	11	14	12	10	14	16
Very unlikely	28	29	32	20	29	27	21	26	36
Definitely not possible	20	22	23	13	19	20	13	22	24
Don't know	15	9	12	25	13	16	24	12	7

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Provisional estimates of the percent of black adults 18 years of age and over with selected AIDS knowledge and attitudes from the 1988 National Health Interview Survey, by age, sex, and education: United States, May–October 1988—Con.[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population.¹ The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in technical notes]

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Total	Age			Sex		Education		
		18–29 years	30–49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
24h. Sharing needles for drug use with someone who has the AIDS virus?					Percent distribution ¹				
Very likely	91	94	93	84	90	91	84	93	95
Somewhat likely	4	3	3	5	4	3	5	3	3
Somewhat unlikely	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Very unlikely	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Definitely not possible	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
Don't know	4	1	2	10	4	4	9	2	1
24i. Being coughed or sneezed on by someone who has the AIDS virus?									
Very likely	10	8	8	14	10	10	15	9	9
Somewhat likely	22	20	19	29	25	20	26	22	19
Somewhat unlikely	15	20	15	11	15	16	11	17	19
Very unlikely	23	27	27	15	23	23	16	23	32
Definitely not possible	14	16	18	6	13	14	8	16	17
Don't know	16	9	13	26	14	17	24	13	8
24j. Attending school with a child who has the AIDS virus?									
Very likely	3	2	3	5	3	3	5	3	1
Somewhat likely	9	9	7	11	10	7	11	9	5
Somewhat unlikely	13	14	13	13	14	13	12	14	13
Very unlikely	35	37	37	29	35	34	30	33	42
Definitely not possible	27	31	31	18	25	30	18	32	33
Don't know	13	7	8	24	12	13	22	9	6
24k. Mosquitoes or other insects?									
Very likely	12	12	12	11	13	10	15	11	9
Somewhat likely	19	21	16	21	21	18	21	19	16
Somewhat unlikely	9	10	9	6	9	9	8	10	10
Very unlikely	20	23	21	15	20	20	16	20	25
Definitely not possible	16	17	18	11	14	17	9	20	18
Don't know	25	17	23	35	23	26	32	21	20
25. Have you ever donated blood?									
Yes	34	25	38	39	45	25	30	30	43
No	66	75	62	61	55	75	70	70	57
Don't know	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0
25a. Have you donated blood since March 1982?									
Yes	8	12	9	4	10	7	3	9	14
No	91	88	91	96	90	92	96	91	85
Don't know	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1
25b. Have you donated blood in the past 12 months?									
Yes	3	5	3	1	3	3	1	4	4
No	97	95	96	98	96	97	98	96	95
Don't know	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1
27. Have you ever heard of a blood test that can detect the AIDS virus infection?									
Yes	66	75	72	50	64	68	48	70	83
No	28	21	24	43	30	27	45	25	14
Don't know	5	4	5	8	6	5	7	5	4
28. To the best of your knowledge, are blood donations routinely tested now for the AIDS virus infection?									
Yes	55	64	62	36	55	55	36	59	72
No	3	4	3	2	3	4	3	3	4
Don't know	8	6	7	10	6	9	9	7	7
Never heard of test ¹	34	26	28	51	36	32	52	31	17
29a. Have you ever received counseling or had a talk with a health professional about taking the AIDS virus test?									
Yes	5	7	5	2	7	3	3	4	8
No	81	68	66	47	57	64	45	65	74
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Never heard of test ¹	34	25	28	50	36	32	52	30	17
29b. Was the discussion									
With a private doctor?	47	40	51	58	46	48	51	26	60
At a family-planning clinic?	13	20	7	9	14	13	13	27	4
At an AIDS hotline?	2	1	—	9	2	1	—	—	3
At a prenatal clinic?	9	15	3	9	6	14	10	10	8
At an STD or sexually transmitted disease clinic?	6	7	4	9	9	1	16	5	2
At an AIDS/HIV counseling and testing site?	9	7	10	17	11	8	16	5	12
With some other health professional?	39	33	44	44	38	40	39	36	41
With someone other than a counselor?	13	11	15	16	11	17	6	10	18
30. During that discussion, did you receive information about how to avoid getting or passing on the AIDS virus?									
Yes	79	83	75	84	78	81	58	66	77
No	19	15	24	16	21	17	22	12	23
Don't know	1	2	1	—	1	2	8	—	—

Table 1. Provisional estimates of the percent of black adults 18 years of age and over with selected AIDS knowledge and attitudes from the 1988 National Health Interview Survey, by age, sex, and education: United States, May–October 1988—Con.

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in technical notes.]

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Total	Age			Sex		Education			
		18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years	
31. Have you ever been advised by a health professional not to have the blood test for the AIDS virus infection?					Percent distribution ¹					
Yes	0	0	0	—	0	0	—	0	0	0
No	66	74	71	49	64	67	48	69	82	82
Don't know	0	—	0	0	—	0	—	0	0	0
Never heard of test ^a	34	25	28	51	36	32	52	31	17	17
32. Have you ever been advised by friends or relatives not to have the blood test for the AIDS virus infection?										
Yes	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
No	66	74	71	49	63	68	48	69	82	82
Don't know	0	—	—	0	—	0	—	—	0	0
Never heard of test ^a	34	25	28	50	36	32	52	31	17	17
33. Have you had your blood tested for the AIDS virus infection?										
Yes	14	19	15	7	17	12	7	14	22	22
No	52	55	57	42	47	56	41	55	61	61
Don't know	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	2
Never heard of test ^a	32	23	27	49	35	30	51	29	16	16
35a. How many times have you had your blood tested for the AIDS virus infection?										
Once	5	6	5	3	6	4	2	5	7	7
Twice	1	1	1	0	2	1	1	1	2	2
3-5 times	1	2	1	1	2	0	0	1	2	2
6-12 times	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
More than 12 times	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Don't know	7	9	7	3	7	7	3	7	11	11
Never heard of or never took test ^a	86	81	86	93	83	89	93	86	79	79
35b. How many times in the past 12 months have you had your blood tested for the AIDS virus infection?										
None in the past 12 months	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	2
Once	5	7	5	2	7	4	3	5	7	7
More than once	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	2
Don't know	6	9	7	3	6	8	3	7	10	10
Never heard of or never took test ^a	86	81	85	93	83	89	93	86	78	78
36. Was the test/were any of the tests, including those you had before the past 12 months—										
Part of a blood donation ^b	54	58	55	42	49	61	41	59	54	54
Part of a blood transfusion?	1	1	1	0	1	1	2	1	1	1
Voluntarily sought?	27	26	27	29	29	24	30	23	30	30
Part of some other activity that requires a blood sample?	23	22	22	26	30	14	27	25	19	19
38. Did you get the results of your test/any of your tests? ⁸										
Yes	72	70	77	68	71	75	82	69	70	70
No	27	30	22	32	29	25	18	31	29	29
Don't know	0	—	0	—	—	0	—	—	0	0
41. Do you expect to have a blood test for the AIDS virus infection in the next 12 months?										
Yes	10	15	11	4	12	9	9	11	12	12
No	49	51	53	40	45	52	34	51	62	62
Don't know	7	8	7	6	7	7	5	9	9	9
Never heard of test ^a	34	25	28	50	36	32	52	30	17	17
42. Will the test do— ¹⁰										
Part of a blood donation?	19	23	18	8	21	18	21	24	12	12
Voluntarily sought?	72	70	76	63	69	76	66	73	77	77
Part of some other activity that requires a blood sample?	21	21	20	26	28	13	26	16	24	24
44a. Did you have a blood transfusion at any time between 1977 and 1985?										
Yes	7	6	8	6	8	7	6	7	8	8
No	92	94	91	92	93	92	92	92	92	92
Don't know	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
44b. Do you think the present supply of blood is safe for transfusions?										
Yes	34	35	34	31	36	32	25	36	41	41
No	34	36	36	27	32	36	36	36	29	29
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Don't know	32	27	30	42	32	33	36	29	30	30
45. Here are some methods people use to prevent getting the AIDS virus through sexual activity. How effective is—										
45a. Using a diaphragm?										
Very effective	9	7	5	4	8	3	8	6	4	4
Somewhat effective	12	13	12	11	11	13	10	13	13	13
Not at all effective	47	50	55	33	40	83	31	48	63	63
Don't know how effective	24	21	20	34	36	24	33	23	18	18
Don't know method	11	9	8	18	15	8	20	9	8	8

Table 1. Provisional estimates of the percent of black adults 18 years of age and over with selected AIDS knowledge and attitudes from the 1988 National Health Interview Survey, by age, sex, and education: United States, May-October 1988—Con.

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in technical notes]

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Age				Sex		Education		
	Total	18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
45b. Using a condom?		Percent distribution ¹							
Very effective	29	34	31	20	32	26	25	30	31
Somewhat effective	47	49	51	39	45	46	34	49	58
Not at all effective	8	7	9	9	7	9	12	8	5
Don't know how effective	13	8	8	25	13	13	23	10	5
Don't know method	4	2	1	9	3	4	7	2	1
45c. Using a spermicidal jelly, foam, or cream?									
Very effective	3	3	3	1	4	2	3	2	3
Somewhat effective	12	15	13	9	13	12	10	13	15
Not at all effective	48	50	56	35	40	54	36	51	58
Don't know how effective	27	23	21	39	30	24	35	25	19
Don't know method	10	8	7	16	13	8	15	9	8
45d. Having a vasectomy?									
Very effective	2	3	2	2	3	2	3	3	1
Somewhat effective	4	6	3	3	4	3	5	3	3
Not at all effective	57	60	66	42	54	60	41	56	76
Don't know how effective	24	22	19	33	26	23	32	24	14
Don't know method	13	9	10	21	13	12	20	12	6
45e. Two people who do not have the AIDS virus having sex only with each other?									
Very effective	71	73	76	61	71	70	69	72	81
Somewhat effective	13	14	13	13	12	14	13	14	12
Not at all effective	5	6	5	4	5	5	7	5	2
Don't know how effective	9	5	6	16	9	8	16	6	4
Don't know method	3	2	1	5	3	3	5	3	1
46. What are your chances of having the AIDS virus?									
High	1	1	2	0	2	1	1	2	0
Medium	2	3	2	1	2	2	2	2	2
Low	15	19	16	9	17	13	9	14	24
None	76	74	74	82	73	79	80	76	71
Don't know	6	4	5	8	6	5	8	6	3
47. What are your chances of getting the AIDS virus?									
High	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Medium	3	3	3	1	3	2	2	2	4
Low	19	24	22	11	21	17	10	21	27
None	71	67	67	79	66	74	77	60	65
Don't know	6	4	4	9	6	5	9	4	4
High chance of already having AIDS virus	1	1	2	0	2	1	1	2	0
49. Do you say your chance of getting AIDS is high or medium because you—									
Have had a blood transfusion?	9	2	13	9	10	7	15	4	10
Have had sexual contact with someone who might have the virus?	23	31	19	16	27	18	44	11	21
Some other reason?	57	61	54	57	57	57	36	58	74
52. Have you ever discussed AIDS with a friend or relative?									
Yes	62	67	71	45	62	63	45	66	78
No	37	32	28	55	38	37	55	34	21
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
53. When was the last time you discussed AIDS with a friend or relative?									
0-3 days ago	10	9	14	6	10	10	8	11	12
4-7 days ago	13	12	17	10	14	13	11	13	17
8-14 days ago	7	8	8	5	7	7	4	8	9
15-31 days ago	12	16	12	8	12	12	7	14	18
More than 31 days ago	14	18	15	9	14	15	10	14	19
Don't know	5	4	4	8	4	5	4	5	5
Never discussed	38	33	29	55	38	38	55	34	22
54. Have you ever personally known anyone with AIDS or the AIDS virus?									
Yes	14	14	19	9	14	15	9	14	21
No	83	83	78	86	83	82	87	83	78
Don't know	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	3
55. How long has it been since you saw this person?									
Within past 2 weeks	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2 weeks-less than 1 month	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1 month-less than 3 months	1	1	2	1	1	1	0	1	3
3 months-less than 6 months	2	1	3	1	2	1	1	2	2
6 months or more	9	10	11	5	10	7	7	8	13
Don't know	0	0	1	—	0	0	—	0	1
Never knew anyone with AIDS	86	86	81	91	86	85	91	86	79

Table 1. Provisional estimates of the percent of black adults 18 years of age and over with selected AIDS knowledge and attitudes from the 1988 National Health Interview Survey, by age, sex, and education: United States, May–October 1988—Con.

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in technical notes.]

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Age				Sex		Education		
	Total	18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
Percent distribution ¹									
56. How well do you know this person?									
Very well	3	3	4	2	3	2	3	2	4
Fairly well	4	5	6	2	5	4	2	5	7
Not very well	4	3	6	3	3	5	3	4	5
Don't really know personally	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	2
Other	1	—	2	0	1	1	0	1	2
Don't know how well	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Never knew anyone with AIDS ¹⁵	86	86	81	91	85	85	91	86	79
57. Is any of these statements true for you?									
a. You have hemophilia and have received clotting factor concentrates since 1977.									
b. You are a native of Haiti or Central or East Africa who has entered the United States since 1977.									
c. You are a man who has had sex with another man at some time since 1977, even 1 time.									
d. You have taken illegal drugs by needle at any time since 1977									
e. Since 1977, you are or have been the sex partner of any person who would answer yes to any of the items above (57 a-d)									
f. You have had sex for money or drugs at any time since 1977.									
Yes to at least 1 statement	4	4	6	1	6	2	4	3	5
No to all statements	96	96	94	99	94	98	96	97	95
Refused	0	—	—	0	—	0	0	—	—
Don't know	0	0	—	—	—	0	0	0	—
58. The U.S. Public Health Service has said that AIDS is one of the major health problems in the country but exactly how many people it affects is not known. The Surgeon General has proposed that a study be conducted and blood samples be taken to help find out how widespread the problem is. If you were selected in this national sample of people to have their blood tested with assurance of privacy of test results, would you have the test?									
Yes	70	76	71	61	71	69	68	75	66
No	22	18	20	28	20	23	22	19	24
Other	2	1	3	2	2	2	2	2	2
Don't know	7	5	6	9	6	7	8	4	7
59. Why wouldn't you take part in the test? ¹⁴									
Don't want to know if I have AIDS	10	14	12	5	11	9	10	11	9
Don't want any counseling about AIDS	2	2	2	2	3	1	4	2	0
Fear I'll get AIDS	10	11	8	11	10	10	12	13	5
Don't like to give blood	18	23	17	14	15	20	18	20	15
Don't trust Government programs	8	9	10	4	10	6	6	7	10
It is a waste of money	2	4	1	3	4	1	3	2	1
Don't believe AIDS can really be cured anyway	3	4	3	3	4	2	4	3	2
Other	42	35	42	48	44	41	43	39	45
Don't know	13	10	14	14	12	13	17	8	12
61. When Federal public health officials give information about AIDS, do you believe what they say or are you doubtful about the information they give?									
Believe	64	71	64	57	66	63	63	66	64
Doubtful	26	23	29	26	25	27	23	27	29
Don't know	10	6	7	17	8	11	15	7	7
62. When they (public health officials) give advice about how to help keep from getting AIDS, do you believe their advice or are you doubtful about what they say?									
Believe	76	81	76	70	79	73	72	77	79
Doubtful	16	14	18	16	14	18	16	17	15
Don't know	8	6	6	14	7	9	12	6	6

¹Multiple responses may sum to more than 100.

²Based on persons answering yes to question 4 (includes yes to question 3).

³Based on persons answering yes to question 11, "Do you have any children aged 10 through 17?" Question 12 was "How many do you have?"

⁴Persons answering no or don't know to question 27.

⁵Based on persons answering yes to question 26a.

⁶Includes persons answering yes to question 26a and no or don't know to questions 27 and 33.

⁷Based on yes answers to question 33. See footnote 6.

⁸Persons answering no or don't know to questions 26a, 27, and 33.

⁹Based on persons answering yes to question 33; excludes persons answering yes to question 26a and no or don't know to question 27 or 33.

¹⁰Based on persons answering yes to question 41.

¹¹Based on persons answering high or medium to question 46.

¹²Based on persons answering no or don't know to question 52.

¹³Based on persons answering no or don't know to question 54.

¹⁴Based on persons not answering yes to question 58.

Table 2. Provisional estimates of the percent of white adults 18 years of age and over with selected AIDS knowledge and attitudes from the 1988 National Health Interview Survey, by age, sex, and education: United States, May-October 1988

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in technical notes]

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Age				Sex		Education		
	Total	18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1. In the past month, have you—									
1a. Seen any public service announcements about AIDS on television?									
Yes	85	86	86	83	84	85	79	87	85
No	13	13	12	14	14	13	18	12	13
Don't know	2	1	2	3	2	2	3	1	2
1b. Heard any public service announcements about AIDS on the radio?									
Yes	46	54	49	36	50	41	38	45	50
No	50	42	46	59	45	54	58	51	45
Don't know	4	4	5	5	4	4	4	4	5
2. Were any of those public service announcements called "America Responds to AIDS?"									
Yes	21	29	22	14	19	22	21	22	19
No	11	12	11	11	12	10	11	11	11
Don't know	55	48	66	80	55	55	50	58	57
Neither heard nor saw any public service announcements	13	11	12	15	13	13	18	11	12
3. In the past month, have you read any brochures or pamphlets about AIDS?									
Yes	39	41	43	35	36	42	29	39	41
No	60	59	56	64	63	57	71	60	53
Don't know	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
4. Have you ever read any brochures or pamphlets about AIDS?									
Yes	63	67	70	54	59	67	45	63	73
No	36	33	30	45	40	33	54	36	27
Don't know	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
5. Where did you get the pamphlets or brochures? ^{1,2}									
Clinic, other than work clinic	2	3	2	1	2	2	3	2	2
Doctor's office (HMO)	11	13	11	8	8	13	12	11	10
Drug store	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Public health department	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2
Received in mail without asking	38	32	37	44	37	39	41	40	35
Red Cross/Red Cross blood donation	2	3	2	1	2	2	2	2	2
Other blood donation	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
School	7	13	6	2	7	7	4	5	9
Self-phoned for/requested it	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
Federal/State/local government	29	23	29	33	29	28	28	28	29
Work, other than clinic or nurse	11	9	15	7	13	9	5	11	13
Work, nurse or clinic	3	3	4	2	2	4	2	3	4
Other	13	15	13	12	15	12	12	12	14
Don't know	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
15. Have you ever discussed AIDS with any of your children aged 10-17?									
Yes	62	37	64	58	49	74	46	62	69
No	36	63	36	44	51	26	54	38	31
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16. Have any or all of your children aged 10-17 had instruction at school about AIDS?									
Yes	57	41	58	56	53	61	52	55	62
No	14	22	14	11	11	17	14	14	14
Don't know	29	36	28	31	35	23	34	31	24
21. How much would you say you know about AIDS?									
A lot	23	22	30	18	22	24	11	19	35
Some	44	51	48	37	43	46	32	48	48
A little	25	24	20	31	26	23	35	28	18
None	7	3	3	15	8	7	22	5	2
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22. To the best of your knowledge, is there a difference between having the AIDS virus and having the disease AIDS?									
Yes	67	67	73	59	66	67	41	68	81
No	15	21	15	10	15	14	17	17	11
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Don't know	18	12	11	30	18	18	41	17	7
23a. AIDS can reduce the body's natural protection against disease.									
Definitely true	76	80	84	66	77	76	54	77	86
Probably true	11	11	9	14	12	11	16	12	8
Probably false	1	1	1	2	1	2	3	1	1
Definitely false	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	3	1
Don't know	8	8	4	18	8	9	23	7	2

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Provisional estimates of the percent of white adults 18 years of age and over with selected AIDS knowledge and attitudes from the 1988 National Health Interview Survey, by age, sex, and education: United States, May–October 1988—Con.

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AIDS knowledge or attitude	Age				Sex		Education		
	Total	18–29 years	30–49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
23b. AIDS is especially common in older people.					Percent distribution ¹				
Definitely true	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0
Probably true	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
Probably false	20	22	18	20	20	19	20	20	19
Definitely false	72	70	77	68	71	73	62	73	76
Don't know	7	6	4	11	7	7	15	6	4
23c. AIDS can damage the brain.									
Definitely true	26	22	26	29	26	26	25	26	27
Probably true	31	32	30	32	31	31	30	31	32
Probably false	10	11	11	6	10	9	5	8	12
Definitely false	7	8	8	4	8	6	5	7	6
Don't know	27	27	24	29	25	26	35	28	21
23d. AIDS usually leads to heart disease.									
Definitely true	8	6	7	10	8	8	11	8	7
Probably true	22	22	21	22	21	22	21	22	21
Probably false	19	21	22	14	21	17	11	18	25
Definitely false	15	17	18	10	17	13	9	14	19
Don't know	36	34	31	43	33	39	48	38	26
23e. AIDS is an infectious disease caused by a virus.									
Definitely true	63	66	70	53	64	61	47	61	72
Probably true	19	20	18	21	20	19	21	21	17
Probably false	2	3	2	3	2	3	3	3	2
Definitely false	4	4	3	4	3	4	4	4	3
Don't know	12	8	7	19	10	13	25	11	8
23f. Teenagers cannot get AIDS.									
Definitely true	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
Probably true	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Probably false	3	2	2	5	3	3	6	3	2
Definitely false	93	96	96	88	93	93	84	94	97
Don't know	3	1	1	5	2	3	7	2	1
23g. AIDS leads to death.									
Definitely true	87	87	88	86	86	88	86	89	85
Probably true	9	10	9	9	10	8	7	8	12
Probably false	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Definitely false	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Don't know	2	1	1	4	2	2	5	1	1
23h. A person can be infected with the AIDS virus and not have the disease AIDS.									
Definitely true	56	58	63	47	55	57	36	55	68
Probably true	22	22	21	24	22	22	23	24	20
Probably false	4	4	3	4	4	3	5	4	3
Definitely false	4	6	5	3	5	4	5	5	3
Don't know	14	10	8	22	13	14	31	12	6
23i. Looking at a person is enough to tell if he or she has the AIDS virus.									
Definitely true	1	1	1	2	2	1	3	4	1
Probably true	3	3	3	4	3	4	6	4	2
Probably false	16	16	14	19	17	16	20	18	13
Definitely false	70	75	77	58	69	70	50	70	80
Don't know	9	5	4	17	9	9	22	8	3
23j. Any person with the AIDS virus can pass it on to someone else during sexual intercourse.									
Definitely true	81	84	83	77	80	83	78	83	81
Probably true	13	12	12	14	14	12	12	12	14
Probably false	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Definitely false	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Don't know	4	2	2	7	4	4	8	3	2
23k. A person who has the AIDS virus can look and feel healthy and well.									
Definitely true	48	52	55	36	49	46	29	46	60
Probably true	30	30	28	32	30	31	29	32	29
Probably false	7	6	6	8	6	7	11	7	4
Definitely false	4	3	4	5	4	4	6	4	2
Don't know	11	8	7	18	11	12	25	11	5
23l. A pregnant woman who has the AIDS virus can give the AIDS virus to her baby.									
Definitely true	79	81	82	74	76	81	73	79	81
Probably true	15	15	14	17	17	14	16	15	15
Probably false	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Definitely false	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Don't know	5	3	3	8	6	5	10	4	3

Table 2. Provisional estimates of the percent of white adults 18 years of age and over with selected AIDS knowledge and attitudes from the 1988 National Health Interview Survey, by age, sex, and education: United States, May–October 1988—Con.

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in technical notes]

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Age				Sex		Education		
	Total	18–29 years	30–49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
23m. There is a vaccine available to the public that protects a person from getting the AIDS virus.					Percent distribution ¹				
Definitely true	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	1	1
Probably true	2	3	1	2	2	2	4	2	1
Probably false	10	10	8	11	10	9	11	11	8
Definitely false	76	77	83	86	76	75	69	76	85
Don't know	11	8	7	19	10	13	25	11	5
23n. There is no cure for AIDS at present.									
Definitely true	87	87	89	84	86	87	79	87	91
Probably true	6	6	5	7	6	6	8	7	5
Probably false	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Definitely false	2	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	2
Don't know	4	3	2	6	4	4	9	3	2
24. How likely do you think it is that a person will get AIDS or the AIDS virus infection from—									
24a. Living near a hospital or home for AIDS patients?									
Very likely	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1
Somewhat likely	3	3	2	3	3	3	4	3	2
Somewhat unlikely	7	8	7	7	8	7	8	9	5
Very unlikely	38	39	38	37	40	36	34	39	39
Definitely not possible	44	45	46	47	42	47	33	43	52
Don't know	6	4	4	11	6	7	17	5	2
24b. Working near someone with the AIDS virus?									
Very likely	2	2	2	3	2	2	4	2	1
Somewhat likely	9	9	9	10	9	9	12	10	7
Somewhat unlikely	13	14	12	12	13	12	11	14	12
Very unlikely	38	40	41	37	41	38	33	38	43
Definitely not possible	30	32	32	27	29	31	23	29	34
Don't know	7	4	4	12	7	7	17	6	3
24c. Eating in a restaurant where the cook has the AIDS virus?									
Very likely	6	5	5	7	6	6	10	6	4
Somewhat likely	18	18	17	17	18	17	18	19	15
Somewhat unlikely	16	17	17	13	16	16	11	17	17
Very unlikely	32	33	34	29	33	31	25	30	38
Definitely not possible	17	19	18	14	16	17	13	16	20
Don't know	12	7	9	19	11	13	23	12	6
24d. Kissing—with exchange of saliva—a person who has the AIDS virus?									
Very likely	22	17	22	26	21	23	28	24	18
Somewhat likely	29	29	29	29	29	29	26	30	30
Somewhat unlikely	14	17	15	11	14	14	9	13	18
Very unlikely	17	19	18	13	18	16	12	15	21
Definitely not possible	7	10	7	5	7	7	6	7	7
Don't know	11	8	9	16	11	12	20	11	6
24e. Shaking hands, touching, or kissing on the cheek someone who has the AIDS virus?									
Very likely	2	1	2	2	2	2	4	2	1
Somewhat likely	6	5	6	6	6	5	8	6	4
Somewhat unlikely	13	13	13	13	14	13	12	16	11
Very unlikely	36	39	39	36	39	37	33	36	41
Definitely not possible	34	36	36	30	32	37	26	33	40
Don't know	7	3	4	12	7	7	17	6	2
24f. Sharing plates, forks, or glasses with someone who has the AIDS virus?									
Very likely	8	7	8	9	7	8	11	9	6
Somewhat likely	19	18	19	20	20	19	21	21	17
Somewhat unlikely	14	15	15	13	15	14	11	14	16
Very unlikely	29	31	31	26	30	28	22	28	35
Definitely not possible	18	22	19	15	18	19	14	17	21
Don't know	11	7	8	17	10	12	21	10	6
24g. Using public toilets?									
Very likely	5	4	4	6	4	6	9	5	2
Somewhat likely	11	11	10	13	11	12	17	13	8
Somewhat unlikely	13	14	14	12	13	13	26	15	13
Very unlikely	35	35	37	32	36	33	26	30	41
Definitely not possible	25	26	28	20	26	25	17	23	32
Don't know	11	8	7	17	10	12	21	11	5

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AIDS knowledge or attitude	Age				Sex		Education		
	Total	18–29 years	30–49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
24h. Sharing needles for drug use with someone who has the AIDS virus?					Percent distribution ¹				
Very likely	94	96	96	81	94	94	88	95	96
Somewhat likely	3	2	2	3	3	2	4	2	2
Somewhat unlikely	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0
Very unlikely	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0
Definitely not possible	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
Don't know	2	1	1	4	2	2	6	1	1
24i. Being coughed or sneezed on by someone who has the AIDS virus?									
Very likely	7	4	6	9	6	7	10	7	4
Somewhat likely	20	17	19	22	19	20	21	21	17
Somewhat unlikely	17	19	18	15	18	17	14	17	19
Very unlikely	29	32	32	24	31	28	21	28	35
Definitely not possible	15	19	16	12	15	16	11	15	18
Don't know	12	8	9	18	11	13	23	12	6
24j. Attending school with a child who has the AIDS virus?									
Very likely	2	1	1	2	1	2	3	2	1
Somewhat likely	8	4	6	7	6	6	7	6	4
Somewhat unlikely	11	12	12	10	11	11	10	13	10
Very unlikely	41	42	42	39	43	38	34	41	44
Definitely not possible	33	37	34	28	31	34	26	32	36
Don't know	8	4	5	14	7	9	19	7	3
24k. Mosquitoes or other insects?									
Very likely	7	8	6	7	8	8	12	7	4
Somewhat likely	15	16	15	14	16	14	16	17	13
Somewhat unlikely	9	10	9	8	9	9	7	10	10
Very unlikely	25	24	27	22	25	24	17	24	29
Definitely not possible	22	22	24	20	21	23	15	20	27
Don't know	22	18	19	28	20	24	31	22	18
25. Have you ever donated blood?									
Yes	42	34	46	45	54	32	33	39	51
No	57	66	54	55	45	68	67	61	49
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25a. Have you donated blood since March 1985?									
Yes	14	20	17	6	17	11	6	13	19
No	85	80	82	93	82	88	94	87	80
Don't know	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1
26b. Have you donated blood in the past 12 months?									
Yes	7	9	9	3	8	6	3	6	10
No	93	90	91	96	91	94	97	93	89
Don't know	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1
27. Have you ever heard of a blood test that can detect the AIDS virus infection?									
Yes	78	84	86	84	77	78	58	78	88
No	18	13	11	28	18	18	35	18	9
Don't know	4	2	3	8	4	5	7	4	3
28. To the best of your knowledge, are blood donations routinely tested now for the AIDS virus infection?									
Yes	69	76	78	55	69	69	49	69	80
No	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3
Don't know	5	6	5	6	5	8	7	5	7
Never heard of test ⁴	22	16	14	36	23	22	42	22	12
29a. Have you ever received counseling or had a talk with a health professional about taking the AIDS virus test?									
Yes	3	5	4	1	3	3	2	3	5
No	74	79	82	63	74	74	56	75	83
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Never heard of test ⁴	22	16	14	36	23	22	42	22	12
29b. Was the discussion ^{1,5}									
With a private doctor?	45	46	44	51	40	51	45	42	47
At a family-planning clinic?	4	7	2	—	3	5	12	3	3
On an AIDS hotline?	3	3	2	3	2	3	2	1	4
At a prenatal clinic?	3	8	1	—	2	5	4	2	4
At an STD or sexually transmitted disease clinic?	3	3	4	—	4	2	—	3	4
At an AIDS/HIV counseling and testing site?	8	7	9	3	8	7	3	7	9
With some other health professional?	44	40	47	51	47	41	46	42	45
With some other counselor?	12	14	11	8	16	8	22	10	11
30. During that discussion, did you receive information about how to avoid getting or passing on the AIDS virus?									
Yes	63	71	57	52	65	60	71	66	56
No	37	28	42	48	34	39	29	31	41
Don't know	1	1	0	—	1	0	—	1	0

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AIDS knowledge or attitude	Age				Sex		Education		
	Total	18–29 years	30–49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
31. Have you ever been advised by a health professional not to have the blood test for the AIDS virus infection?					Percent distribution ¹				
Yes	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
No	77	84	85	83	77	77	58	77	87
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Never heard of test ²	23	16	14	17	23	22	42	22	12
32. Have you ever been advised by friends or relatives not to have the blood test for the AIDS virus infection?									
Yes	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
No	77	84	85	83	77	77	58	77	87
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Never heard of test ²	23	16	14	17	23	22	42	22	12
33. Have you had your blood tested for the AIDS virus infection?									
Yes	17	25	21	18	21	14	9	18	23
No	60	60	65	55	57	59	49	62	64
Don't know	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	1	2
Never heard of test ²	21	14	13	25	21	22	41	21	11
35a. How many times have you had your blood tested for the AIDS virus infection?									
Once	5	7	6	1	5	4	3	4	6
Twice	1	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	2
3–5 times	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	2
6–12 times	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
More than 12 times	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Don't know	10	14	12	5	12	8	4	9	11
Never heard of or never took test ²	83	75	79	83	79	86	92	84	77
35b. How many times in the past 12 months have you had your blood tested for the AIDS virus infection?									
None in the past 12 months	2	3	2	1	2	1	1	2	2
Once	4	6	5	1	5	4	3	4	5
More than once	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	2
Don't know	10	14	12	5	12	8	4	9	11
Never heard of or never took test ²	83	75	79	83	79	86	92	84	77
36. Was the following any of the tests, including those you had before the past 12 months—									
Part of a blood donation?	75	73	76	79	75	75	64	75	78
Part of a blood transfusion?	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	1
Voluntarily sought?	14	14	15	11	13	16	20	13	14
Part of some other activity that requires a blood sample?	13	17	11	9	15	10	16	13	12
38. Did you get the results of your test/any of your tests?									
Yes	51	53	51	43	51	51	64	48	50
No	48	46	48	55	48	48	34	50	50
Don't know	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	1
41. Do you expect to have a blood test for the AIDS virus infection in the next 12 months?									
Yes	6	10	7	2	7	5	4	8	7
No	68	69	75	59	66	69	50	68	77
Don't know	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	4
Never heard of test ²	22	16	14	36	23	22	42	22	12
42. Will the test be— ^{1,10}									
Part of a blood donation?	46	40	52	44	47	45	25	44	53
Voluntarily sought?	49	59	41	42	47	51	62	52	43
Part of some other activity that requires a blood sample?	16	15	16	20	18	13	16	16	16
44a. Did you have a blood transfusion at any time between 1977 and 1987?									
Yes	6	3	5	8	5	6	7	5	5
No	93	96	94	90	93	93	92	93	93
Don't know	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
44b. Do you think the present supply of blood is safe for transfusions?									
Yes	46	49	50	40	50	43	34	45	54
No	26	28	26	25	24	28	30	28	23
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Don't know	27	23	24	34	26	29	36	27	23
45. Here are some methods people use to prevent getting the AIDS virus through sexual activity. How effective is—									
Using a diaphragm?									
Very effective	2	2	2	3	2	2	3	3	2
Somewhat effective	13	15	10	14	13	13	11	13	13
Not at all effective	56	62	67	45	57	56	40	58	68
Don't know how effective	21	17	16	30	22	20	33	21	14
Don't know method	8	4	4	8	6	6	13	5	3

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AIDS knowledge or attitude	Total	Age			Sex		Education		
		18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
45a. Using a condom?					Percent distribution ¹				
Very effective	30	35	34	24	33	29	23	29	36
Somewhat effective	55	55	57	52	54	55	46	57	57
Not at all effective	5	4	4	5	4	5	7	5	3
Don't know how effective	8	5	4	15	7	9	19	7	4
Don't know method	2	1	1	4	2	2	5	1	1
45c. Using a spermicide ¹ jelly, foam, or cream?									
Very effective	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	1
Somewhat effective	15	18	15	14	16	15	10	18	18
Not at all effective	54	50	52	43	52	56	41	55	61
Don't know how effective	23	17	17	33	24	22	34	23	16
Don't know method	8	4	4	10	7	6	14	5	3
45d. Having a vasectomy?									
Very effective	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	1
Somewhat effective	2	4	2	2	3	2	3	3	2
Not at all effective	73	72	83	63	73	73	54	73	84
Don't know how effective	17	17	10	24	17	17	28	18	10
Don't know method	6	5	4	9	6	6	14	5	3
45e. Two people who do not have the AIDS virus having sex only with each other?									
Very effective	84	85	89	79	86	83	73	85	90
Somewhat effective	7	8	6	8	7	8	9	8	6
Not at all effective	2	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	1
Don't know how effective	5	3	2	8	4	5	11	4	2
Don't know method	1	1	1	3	1	2	4	1	1
46. What are your chances of having the AIDS virus?									
High	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medium	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	2	2
Low	14	20	17	8	16	13	8	14	18
None	82	76	80	88	79	84	88	83	78
Don't know	2	2	1	3	2	2	4	2	1
47. What are your chances of getting the AIDS virus?									
High	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medium	2	3	2	1	2	1	2	2	2
Low	20	28	24	11	24	18	11	19	27
None	74	65	72	84	71	78	82	76	69
Don't know	3	3	2	3	3	3	5	3	1
High chance of already having AIDS virus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
49. Do you say your chance of getting AIDS is high or medium because you—									
Have had a blood transfusion?	8	8	7	16	7	9	9	11	4
Have had sexual contact with someone who might have the virus?	15	21	15	4	18	12	20	14	15
Some other reason?	67	67	66	65	61	74	53	70	69
52. Have you ever discussed AIDS with a friend or relative?									
Yes	66	72	75	52	62	70	45	65	78
No	34	27	25	48	38	30	54	35	22
Don't know	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
53. When was the last time you discussed AIDS with a friend or relative?									
0-3 days ago	8	9	9	8	8	8	6	7	9
4-7 days ago	10	11	12	8	10	11	8	10	12
8-14 days ago	8	8	8	6	7	8	8	8	9
15-31 days ago	16	17	18	12	14	17	10	15	18
More than 31 days ago	19	24	22	13	18	21	12	19	23
Don't know	5	4	5	5	5	5	4	5	5
Never discussed ²	34	28	25	48	39	30	55	35	23
54. Have you ever personally known anyone with AIDS or the AIDS virus?									
Yes	10	10	12	7	9	10	5	7	15
No	89	86	86	92	89	86	94	91	83
Don't know	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2
55. How long has it been since you saw this person?									
Within past 2 weeks	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	2
2 weeks—less than 1 month	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
1 month—less than 3 months	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
3 months—less than 6 months	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
6 months or more	6	6	8	5	6	7	3	5	10
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Never knew anyone with AIDS ³	90	90	88	94	91	90	95	93	85

Table 2. Provisional estimates of the percent of white adults 18 years of age and over with selected AIDS knowledge and attitudes from the 1988 National Health Interview Survey, by age, sex, and education; United States, May–October 1988—Con.

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in technical notes]

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Age				Sex		Education		
	Total	18–29 years	30–49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
56. How well do you know this person?					Percent distribution ¹				
Very well	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Fairly well	2	2	3	1	2	1	1	2	3
Not very well	4	4	5	2	4	4	1	1	6
Don't really know personally	2	2	2	1	1	2	1	3	2
Other	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	2
Don't know how well	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Never knew anyone with AIDS ²	90	90	88	94	91	90	95	93	85
57. Is any of these statements true for you?									
a. You have hemophilia and have received clotting factor concentrates since 1977									
b. You are a native of Haiti or Central or East Africa who has entered the United States since 1977									
c. You are a man who has had sex with another man at some time since 1977, even 1 time									
d. You have taken illegal drugs by needle at any time since 1977									
e. Since 1977, you are or have been the sex partner of any person who would answer yes to any of the items above (57 a–d)									
f. You have had sex for money or drugs at any time since 1977									
Yes to at least 1 statement	2	4	3	0	3	2	2	2	2
No to all statements	98	96	97	99	97	98	98	98	97
Refused	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
58. The U.S. Public Health Service has said that AIDS is one of the major health problems in the country but exactly how many people it affects is not known. The Surgeon General has proposed that a study be conducted and blood samples be taken to help find out how widespread the problem is. If you were selected in this national sample of people to have their blood tested with assurances of privacy of test results, would you have the test?									
Yes	71	76	74	64	72	70	65	72	74
No	21	18	18	27	21	22	27	21	19
Other	2	1	2	3	2	2	2	2	2
Don't know	5	4	5	6	4	6	6	6	5
59. Why wouldn't you take part in the test? ³									
Don't want to know if I have AIDS	4	7	5	2	4	4	3	5	4
Don't want any counseling about AIDS	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
Fear I'll get AIDS	6	5	6	6	5	6	7	6	4
Don't like to give blood	13	18	13	9	11	14	10	15	12
Don't trust Government programs	6	6	9	5	9	5	3	6	9
It is a waste of money	4	3	3	4	4	3	5	4	3
Don't believe AIDS can really be cured anyway	2	1	1	2	2	2	3	2	1
Other	54	47	51	61	54	55	55	51	58
Don't know	12	15	12	12	11	14	15	13	11
61. When Federal public health officials give information about AIDS, do you believe what they say or are you doubtful about the information they give?									
Believe	65	71	66	58	64	65	55	64	71
Doubtful	29	24	29	32	30	28	32	31	25
Don't know	6	4	5	10	6	7	13	6	4
62. When they [public health officials] give advice about how to help keep from getting AIDS, do you believe their advice or are you doubtful about what they say?									
Believe	79	82	82	73	79	79	68	78	85
Doubtful	16	14	15	19	17	16	21	17	13
Don't know	5	3	3	8	5	5	11	4	3

¹Multiple responses may sum to more than 100.

²Based on persons answering yes to question 11. (Includes yes to question 3).

³Based on persons answering yes to question 11. "Do you have any children aged 10 through 17?" Question 12 was "How many do you have?"

⁴Persons answering no or don't know to question 27.

⁵Based on persons answering yes to question 26a.

⁶Includes persons answering yes to question 26a and no or don't know to questions 27 and 33.

⁷Based on yes answers to question 33. See footnote 6.

⁸Persons answering no or don't know to questions 26a, 27, and 33.

⁹Based on persons answering yes to question 33; excludes persons answering yes to question 26a and no or don't know to question 27 or 33.

¹⁰Based on persons answering yes to question 41.

¹¹Based on persons answering high or medium to question 48.

¹²Based on persons answering no or don't know to question 52.

¹³Based on persons answering no or don't know to question 54.

¹⁴Based on persons not answering yes to question 58.

Symbols

- Quantity zero
 - 0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05
-

Technical notes

The National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) is a continuous, cross-sectional household interview survey. Each week, a probability sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population is interviewed by personnel of the U.S. Bureau of the Census to obtain information on the health and other characteristics of each member of the household. Supplemental information is collected for all or a sample of household members. The 1988 National Health Interview Survey of AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes was asked of a single randomly chosen adult 18 years of age or over in each family. The estimates in this report are based on completed interviews with 3,066 black and 17,355 white individuals, about 89 percent of eligible respondents.

Table I contains the estimated population size of each of the demographic subgroups included in tables 1 and 2 to allow readers to derive provisional estimates of the number of people in the United States with a given characteristic, for example, the number of black men age 18-29 years who have had their blood tested for the AIDS virus. The population figures in table 1 are based on 1987 data from the NHIS; they are not official population estimates. Tables II and III show approximate standard errors of the estimates presented in tables 1 and 2. Both the estimates in tables 1 and 2 and the standard errors in tables II and III are provisional. They may differ slightly from estimates made using the final data file because they were calculated

using a simplified weighting procedure that does not adjust for all the factors used in weighting the final data file. A final data file covering the entire data collection period for 1988 will be available later in 1989.

Table I. Black and white sample sizes for the 1988 National Health Interview Survey of AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes and estimated black and white adult populations 18 years of age and over, by selected characteristics: United States, May-October 1988

Characteristic	Sample size		Estimated population in thousands	
	Black	White	Black	White
All adults	3,066	17,355	19,168	148,154
18-29 years	799	3,921	6,331	38,498
30-49 years	1,170	6,590	7,318	56,250
50 years and over	1,067	6,844	5,593	53,400
Sex				
Male	1,086	7,508	8,535	70,769
Female	1,960	9,847	10,633	77,385
Education				
Less than 12 years	1,063	3,632	6,594	31,461
12 years	1,108	6,659	7,336	58,666
More than 12 years	833	6,869	4,964	57,068

Table II. Standard errors, expressed in percentage points, of estimated percents for black adults from the 1988 National Health Interview Survey of AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes, by selected characteristics: United States, May-October 1988

Estimated percent	Total	Age			Sex		Education		
		18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
5 or 95	0.5	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.9	0.8	1.0
10 or 90	0.7	1.4	1.1	1.2	1.2	0.9	1.2	1.2	1.3
15 or 85	0.8	1.6	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.0	1.4	1.4	1.6
20 or 80	0.9	1.8	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.2	1.6	1.5	1.8
25 or 75	1.0	2.0	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.3	1.7	1.7	1.9
30 or 70	1.1	2.1	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.3	1.8	1.8	2.1
35 or 65	1.1	2.2	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.4	1.9	1.9	2.1
40 or 60	1.1	2.2	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.4	1.9	1.9	2.2
45 or 55	1.2	2.3	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.4	1.9	1.9	2.2
50	1.2	2.3	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.4	2.0	1.9	2.2

Table III. Standard errors, expressed in percentage points, of estimated percents for white adults from the 1988 National Health Interview Survey of AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes, by selected characteristics: United States, May-October 1988

Estimated percent	Total	Age			Sex		Education		
		18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
5 or 95	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.3
10 or 90	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.5
15 or 85	0.3	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.6	0.6
20 or 80	0.4	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.9	0.6	0.6
25 or 75	0.4	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.7
30 or 70	0.4	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	1.0	0.7	0.7
35 or 65	0.5	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6	1.0	0.8	0.7
40 or 60	0.5	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6	1.0	0.8	0.8
45 or 55	0.5	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.6	1.1	0.8	0.8
50	0.5	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.6	1.1	0.8	0.8

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